



Fort Worth Star-Telegram

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Election
☆☆☆2020

We take seriously our part in telling the story of this historic election. While complete returns weren't available in time for inclusion in this print edition, subscribers will find additional analysis and results on our digital platforms:

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RACES TO WATCH
● **U.S. President:** Trump vs. Biden
● **Tarrant County Sheriff:** Waybourn vs. Keyes

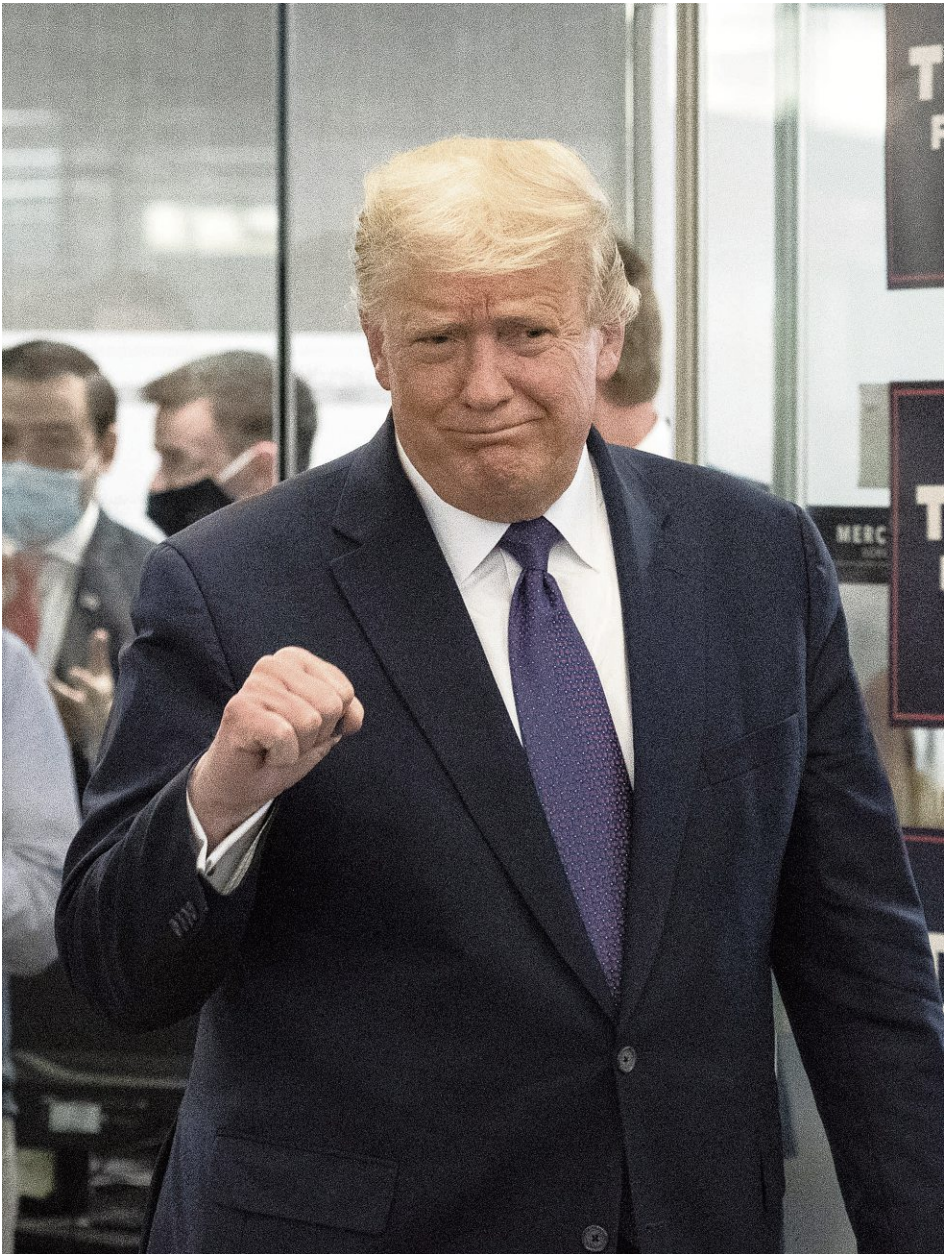


EPIC COUNT IS ON



CAROLYN KASTER AP

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden on Tuesday visits with residents across the street from the Joseph R. Biden Jr. Aquatic Center in Wilmington, Delaware.



ALEX BRANDON AP

President Donald Trump arrives to speak at Trump campaign headquarters on Election Day in Arlington, Virginia.

For Biden and Trump, contest in battleground states isn't over

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN AND ALEXANDRA JAFFE

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden were locked in tight races in battleground states across the country Tuesday night as they concluded an unprecedented campaign that will shape America's response to the surging pandemic and foundational questions of economic fairness and racial justice.

Biden picked up the first battleground state of the night, New Hampshire, a small prize

that Trump tried to steal from Democrats. But races were too early to call in the most fiercely contested and critical states on the map, including Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Texas.

Biden won California, the nation's biggest electoral haul, and other predictable victories including Colorado and Virginia, two former battlegrounds that have become Democratic strongholds. Trump's wins included Kansas, North Dakota and other conservative bastions.

Americans made their choices as the nation faced a confluence of historic crises with each can-

didate declaring the other fundamentally unfit to navigate the challenges. Daily life has been upended by the coronavirus, which has killed more than 232,000 Americans and cost millions of jobs.

Millions of voters braved their worries about the virus — and some long lines — to turn out in person, joining 102 million fellow Americans who voted days or weeks earlier, a record number that represented 73% of the total vote in the 2016 presidential election.

Early results in several key battleground states were in flux as election officials processed a

historically large number of mail-in votes. Democrats typically outperform Republicans in mail voting, while the GOP looks to make up ground in Election Day turnout. That means the early margins between the candidates could be influenced by which type of votes — early or Election Day — were being reported by the states.

Trump and Biden were locked in a tight race in Florida, and it was too early for The Associated Press to call the perennial battleground state. Florida has a history of close elections, including the state's 2018 gover-

nor's race, which went to a recount. The AP was waiting on more votes to be counted in South Florida, including Miami-Dade County, the largest county in the state.

Control of the Senate was at stake, too: Democrats needed to net three seats if Biden captured the White House to gain control of all of Washington for the first time in a decade. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky won reelection in an early victory for the Republicans, and GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a

SEE EPIC, 9A

Cornyn defeats Hegar to win his fourth term in US Senate

BY LUKE RANKER
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FORT WORTH

Republican John Cornyn defeated Democratic challenger MJ Hegar to win a fourth term in the U.S. Senate.

With roughly 68% of the vote tallied, Cornyn had nearly 53% to Hegar's less than 45%. Libertarian Trey Holcomb had just over 3%.

More than 51% of Tarrant County early voters had cast

ballots for Cornyn, according to unofficial results updated just before 9:30 p.m. Hegar had brought in about 46% of the early votes.

In a statement, Hegar's campaign said the relatively new politician faced many challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and no statewide voter turnout and diminishing Cornyn's campaign fundraising.

"Together, we stood up and got to work, building a powerful grassroots campaign from the

ground up, shattering voter turnout records, and most importantly sending a message to a previously safe Senator that he answers to us," she said in the statement. "I am confident that the work we did will move our state forward for years to come."

Cornyn maintained a close, often single-digit lead over Hegar, a former Air Force pilot, in the polls leading up to Election Day. But Democrats saw the race as a chance to flip Texas, especially after Democrat Beto



AP, Courtesy

Sen. John Cornyn defeated Democrat MJ Hegar of Round Rock.

O'Rourke gave U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz a tight race in 2018. The attention brought high spending, with Hegar raising \$24

million compared to Cornyn's \$25 million, according to the

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